

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:

a first conductive layer;

a second conductive layer; and

a plurality of communication elements that are connected to the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, wherein

a first communication element of the plurality of communication elements, initiating transmission to a second communication element of the plurality of communication elements, is operative to control a voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, letting the second communication element to acknowledge a change in the voltage propagated around the first communication element as a signal,

wherein the second communication element is ~~operative to monitor~~ monitors for the signal from the first communication element and ~~acknowledge~~ acknowledges the change in the voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer as the signal,

wherein the second communication element is assigned an ID identifying the second communication element, and wherein the signal includes an ID identifying a recipient second

communication element of the plurality of communication elements which is subsequently to receive the signal,

wherein the recipient second communication element determines whether ~~a signal~~the signal is destined to the recipient second communication element by referring to the ID included in the signal, and

wherein the plurality of communication elements can be placed for communication without individual conductive wires.

2. (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim 1, ~~where~~
~~in~~wherein the first communication element ~~is operative to generate~~generates, as the signal, the change in the voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, and
wherein the signal propagates ~~propagated~~ concentrically around the first communication element.

3. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmitted signal includes an ID identifying a communication element which is a final destination of the signal.

4. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmitted signal includes an ID identifying a communication element which is an originating source of transmission of the signal.

5. (currently amended): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the communication elements ~~has~~ ~~allows~~ allows local communication with other neighboring communication elements, the local communication ~~allowing~~ comprising sequential transmissions of ~~a signal~~ the signal between the communication elements to convey the signal to a target communication element, said target communication element being disposed between the first and second conductive layers.

6. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer are flat layers.

7. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer are uniform conductive layers.

8. (canceled).

9. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a sensor element including a circuit for measuring stress or temperature.

10. (currently amended): ~~The communication~~A communication apparatus comprising:

a first conductive layer;

a second conductive layer; and

a plurality of communication elements that are connected to the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, wherein

a first communication element of the plurality of communication elements, initiating transmission to a second communication element of the plurality of communication elements, is operative to control a voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, letting the second communication element to acknowledge a change in the voltage, propagated around the first communication element, as a signal,

wherein the second communication element ~~is operative to monitor~~monitors for the signal from the first communication element and ~~acknowledge~~acknowledges the change in the voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer as the signal,

wherein the first communication element is assigned an ID identifying the first communication element, and the transmitted signal includes an ID identifying the first communication element which transmitted the signal,

wherein the second communication element identifies the first communication element which transmitted the signal by referring to the ID included in the signal, and

wherein the plurality of communication elements can be placed for communication without individual conductive wires.

11. (currently amended): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the first communication element ~~is operative to generate~~generates, as the signal, the change in the voltage between the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer, ~~propagated~~and wherein the signal propagates concentrically around the first communication element.

12. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the transmitted signal includes an ID identifying a communication element which is a final destination of the signal.

13. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the transmitted signal includes an ID identifying a communication element which is an originating source of transmission of the signal.

14. (currently amended): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein each of the communication elements allows local communications with other neighboring communication elements, the local communications ~~allowing~~ comprising sequential transmissions of ~~a signal~~ the signal between the communication elements to convey the signal to a target communication element, said target communication element being disposed between the first and second conductive layers.

15. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer are flat layers.

16. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the first conductive layer and the second conductive layer are uniform conductive layers.

17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a sensor element including a circuit for measuring stress or temperature.

Claims 19. - 46. (canceled)

47. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plural communication elements are laterally spaced from each other so as to not overlap each other in a direction of disposition of the first and second conductive layers.

48. (previously presented): The communication apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of communication elements are physically disposed between the first and second conductive layers.

49. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the plural communication elements are laterally spaced from each other so as to not overlap each other in a direction of disposition of the first and second conductive layers.

50. (previously presented): The communication apparatus of claim 10, wherein the plurality of communication elements are physically disposed between the first and second conductive layers.

51. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the plural communication elements are laterally spaced from each other so as to not overlap each other in a direction of disposition of the first and second conductive layers.

52. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of communication elements each comprises a communicating unit, a processing unit and a memory.

53. (previously presented): The communication apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of communication elements each comprises a communicating unit, a processing unit and a memory.